RAPID PROGRESS IN SELECTING ROAD FOR FEDERAL-AID SYSTEM

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The selection of the roads to compose the system of federal-aid highways which will reach into practically every county in the United States is progressing rapidly, according to the bureau of public roads of the United States Department of Agriculture. State federal engineers have held numerous conferences during the past summer in all sections of the country.

Outline the System.

The system is being outlined in accordance with the requirements of the federal highway act of last November, which contemplates a system of highways to be built with federal-aid such as no other nation has ever possessed and which, once built, will be continuously maintained in serviceable condition. Eighteen feet will be the minimum width of roadway unless conditions justify a lesser width, and such cases must be given special approval. The system will consist of not more than 7 per cent of the total road mileage in any one state, not more than 3-7 of which will be primary or interstate highways, and the remainder secondary or inter-county highways. The total mileage of primary and secondary roads will be approximately 187,000 miles.

Work has progressed rapidly on the system during the past year and 10,000 miles of road have been completed in conjunction with federal-aid. These have been projects of such importance that there is no doubt as to their being included in the system as finally outlined.

Approximate Mileage.

The following table gives the approximate mileage of the primary and secondary system in the various states. In 13 states the figures are based on the total mileage of highways in the state, while the remainder are based on the maps submitted.

	Mileage in Primary System	Mileage in Secondary System	Total Federal Aid System
Alabama	1,606	2,262	3,868
Arizona	642	856	1,498
Arkansas	2,158	2,879	5,037
California	2,015	2,432	4,447
Colorado	1,440	1,920	3,360
Connecticut	350	470	820
Delaware	115	151	266
Florida	1,127	833	2,960
Georgia	2,427	3,235	5,662
Idaho	1,163	1,609	2,772
Illinois	2,338	3,851	6,189
Indiana	2,128	2,838	4,966
Iowa	2,930	4,214	7,144
Kansas	3,216	3,384	6,600
Kentucky	1,370	1,880	3,250
Louisiana	1,200	1,600	2,800
Maine	492	834	1,326
Maryland	444	592	1,036
Massachusetts	553	737	1,290
Michigan	2,250	3,000	5,250
Minnesota	3,091	4,122	7,213
Mississippi	1,416	1,874	3,290
Missouri	3,345	4,461	7,806
Montana	2,000	2,700	4,700
Nebraska	2,408	3,211	5,619
Nevada	600	920	1,520
New Hampshire	293	707	1,000
New Jersey	513	685	1,198
New Mexico	1,230	1,997	3,227
New York	2,150	2,404	4,554
North Carolina	1,840	2,354	4,194
North Dakota	2,061	2,754	4,815
Ohio	1,690	2,315	4,005
Oklahoma	3,281	4,508	7,889
Oregon	1,177	1,628	2,805
Pennsylvania	2,700	3,600	6,300
Rhode Island	70	88	165
South Carolina	1,371	1,854	3,225
South Dakota	3,462	4,615	8,077
Tennessee	1,529	2,748	4,077
Texas	3,640	8,015	10,655
Utah	690	965	1,655
Vermont	444	599	1,043
Virginia	1,690	2,133	3,733
Washington	1,573	1,697	2,970
West Virginia	942	768	1,710
Wisconsin	2,364	3,152	5,516
Wyoming	1,288	1,946	3,234
Totals	71,492	98,079	187,406

From the present outlook it is thought that this program of road construction will cover a period of from 15 to 20 years. Many states will complete their mileage in a much shorter time as they have included in the system a considerable mileage of improved road. They will then enlarge the federal-aid system by including additional mileage.

When the system is complete the total improved road mileage of the country will be far greater than the 187,000 miles included in the system. How much greater it is hard to say, but in all of the states the system has been outlined, keeping in mind that state roads independent of federal-aid will connect with it.

Opening Up the National Forests by Road Building—The Blewitt Pass Road Under Construction, Wenatchee National Forest, Washington.

CARE FOR SPRAY MATERIALS

Surplus Supplies, Left Over From Summer Campaign, Can Be Stored for Spring Use.

Supplies of spraying materials that were left over from the summer's spraying campaign can be kept in fairly good condition if properly stored.

Liquid lime-sulphur deteriorates more rapidly than any of the others. It should be placed where it will not freeze and if stored in a cellar or shed, care needs to be used that the container does not leak, as it gives off a disagreeable odor. In spring the material ought to be tested for loss of strength by using a hydrometer.

Dry lime-sulphur will keep in good shape if stored in an air-tight container and freezing does not hurt it. Powdered lead arsenate will keep well in a dry place, but the paste form should have water poured over its surface and then stored in a place free from freezing.

DECREASE FAMILY EXPENSES

Plenty of Milk and Butter Together With Fruits and Vegetables, Cut Down Bills.

Cows for milk and butter on the farm will be needed. With plenty of milk and butter the living of the farmer's family need not be expensive if enough fruit, garden vegetables, meat and lard are produced. Farmers who raise most of their living will likely have enough cash to buy what they cannot raise.

PREVENT SEED CORN DAMAGE

Weevils, Rats and Mice Can Be Discouraged by Use of Carbon Bisulphide.

Corn weevils, rats and mice are the worst enemies of seed corn. Damage from these pests can be prevented by properly storing and fumigating with a gas called carbon-bisulphide, which can be purchased at drug stores in a liquid form.

WINTER PRUNING IS FAVORED

Particularly Advantageous to Peach Trees as It Stimulates Growth of Wood.

The pruning of orchards at this time of year is particularly advantageous to peaches. Winter pruning stimulates wood production. It may thin next year's crop, but it at the same time increases the fruiting area for the succeeding year.

Scratch Shed for Hens.

Provide good scratch shed for fowls. Exercise insures health. Green feed must be given for best results. If the winter cold has spoiled the outside greens, furnish them cabbage or sprouted oats.

BULLETINS ARE OF GREAT SERVICE

Oklahoma Farmers Save Much Money on Broom Corn Crop.

Weekly Reports of Quantities in Storage and General Market Conditions Served to Boost Prices Materially.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

"We were glad to publish your bulletins that gave market conditions to farmers and saved the farmers from $50 to $100 per ton on their broom corn," the editor of an Oklahoma newspaper recently wrote the United States Department of Agriculture.

The bulletins referred to were weekly reports of the quantities of broom corn in storage, and of general market conditions, issued by the department's representatives in the broom corn territory. The reports indicated a shortage of stocks in northwestern Oklahoma and the farmers refused to sell at the low prices bid by speculators. The result was the sales of the crops at prices more in proportion with actual supply and demand conditions.

The Department of Agriculture now conducts a market news service on all leading agricultural commodities, including hay, grain, feed and seed, fruits and vegetables, live stock and meats, cotton, and dairy and poultry products. A corps of trained market reporters are located in the field and at large market centers to report conditions, and the information is immediately dispatched to farmers and the trade by mail, telegraph, the press, and radio.

"Know your market" is the department's slogan. Farmers are urged in their own interests to get in touch with the department so that they may get the full benefit of the market news service.

Increase Milk Production.

The fixed charges of maintaining a cow that milks 4,000 pounds of milk a year is but little less than those of maintaining a cow that milks 6,000 pounds of milk. A good herd sire will put the herd on the road to cheaper production by increasing production.

Give Hens Shelled Corn.

In extremely cold weather laying hens should be given all the whole shelled corn they will eat just before they go to roost at night.

Fertilizer for Meadow.

For the top dressing of meadows it is recommended to use 350 pounds to the acre of a fertilizer carrying 3 per cent of nitrogen, 7 per cent phosphoric acid and 6 per cent potash. After the first crop is cut, 150 pounds of the same fertilizer to the acre should be applied.

Idle Horses.

Horses that are forced to remain idle may be fed a little more roughage than usual, with a saving to the feed bill.

Greek Type of Dress in Favor

The story of present-day clothes is an interesting one, writes a Paris fashion correspondent in the New York Tribune. There are chapters on Egyptian, Persian and Venetian influences; in fact, almost unending are the themes that one might pursue in telling of clothes as created by the world's best designers of today.

But it is not in these radical departures that the interest of the well-dressed woman lies. It is not among any of these that the accepted line is to be found. No greater tribute could be paid to the taste of the average woman of the present day than that she still prefers the silhouette of the simple straight dress which so closely resembles the dress worn by the ancient Greeks at the period of their highest civilization.

The chemise dress of this season, with its longer skirt and its shorter waist—which make its proportions more graceful—more strongly resembles the old-time Greek robe than did the strangely long-waisted, short-skirted frock of last year.

The white frock made along simple lines still is seen everywhere. It stands out as a distinguished type of dress among the brilliant stuffs that fashion so many of the mid-winter evening gowns.

Civet Cat Dyed in Rusty Hue.

Especially noteworthy among these gorgeous fabrics are exquisite metal encrusted velvets, chiffon and silks and the lovely, rich colored tissues such as those in gold and copper shades, as well as those in bright greens and yellows, which Cheruit encrusts with embroideries in many beautiful contrasting hues.

Colors of the autumn are apparently great favorites with Cheruit, who even dyes furs, such as civet cat, in an orange shade. The orange dye gives a rusty tinge to the black hairs of the fur, while the white ones take a brilliant orange hue, so that the effect is very striking. Fur treated in this way is used to make entire evening cloaks.

Fur coats for evening wear and for the daytime, too, are now being designed for each customer rather than ordered from a model already made up or bought ready-to-year. This seems a great extravagance, but such a method of procedure is no more startling in comparison to the buying of more staple styles in ready-to-wear fur coats than the method of draping furs which came into vogue a few years ago was as compared to the conservative lines followed by the old-time furrier in making a fur coat a purely useful garment. Nevertheless, the general trend is to use fur in exactly the same way that one would use velvet, silk or even chiffon.

Evening Clothes Are Rich.

Furriers of the old school still do not approve entirely of treating skins as fabrics. No branch of dress manufacture has shown a greater advancement during the last three or four years than has the fur industry. Here the most radical departures from the beaten track are seen, not only in the forming of the garments but in the working of the skins themselves.

In the use of moleskin this is especially apparent. Only a few seasons ago mole was worked in patches just the size of the skin, so that the whole effect was smooth and velvety. Now the skins are worked in every conceivable way, even in shell patterns.

Colors that remind one of sunsets on frosty winter evenings are seen in a dancing frock of silver cloth shot with red. This gown is made in simple straight-line effect. The skirt wraps around the figure and is cut in deep points. There is a side panel of sheer silver tissue which is a continuation of the girdle. The girdle is held at the right side, at the point from which the panel falls, by a silver flower.

No more delightful frock for a party could possibly be imagined than one of all-over gold and silver lace cut in chemise style and hung over a foundation of flame red crepe de chine.

Theater Gown of Heavy Gold and Silver Lace Over Foundation of Red Crepe de Chine. With It Is Carried a Red Fan. Has Gold Medallion.

Gown Designed for French Stage.

A gown developed in a deep coral pink chiffon velvet is trimmed with an applique of silver braid forming wheels on the hem of the skirt and panel bands at the front and back.

Headdresses are increasing in favor steadily. So many ideas are expressed in the detail of the evening dress that surely no woman, young or old, can fail to find a type becoming to her.

Wide, straight bands of silk, ribbon or metal tissue are wrapped about the head. A rather extreme example of this vogue is a band tied at one side and long ends are allowed to fall over the shoulder. A more conservative method is to drape the band so that the fastening is concealed.

Jeweled tassels and strings of beads are hung from headdresses. Occasionally the hair is dressed high and a cluster of curls permitted to fall over the headband.

Juliet's cap is copied in silver and studded with jewels to make a modern headdress. Then there is the Egyptian-draped toque with tassel pendants and the braided band of tinsel cloth with crystal pendants.

Chemises of Latest Design.

The newer chemises are as straight up and down in design as any dress. Sometimes they have simply a narrow band of lace to edge them at the top, and then they are fastened over the shoulders with a narrow strip of ribbon to brighten the effect and keep the garment dainty looking. But, from this point, they can be elaborated almost indefinitely. The lace can be worked into a little yoke, it can be made up of insertion and edging prettily stitched together, or there can be ribbons strung through the garment in various ways. Also there are many rows of hemstitching applied to the up-and-down and the crosswise lines of the chemises, made of material that will allow of this sort of work.

But always the cut of the thing is kept nearly straight, depending upon whether or not you decide to have the step-in variety of chemise or the one that hangs loose and is worn with a pair of bloomers.

On some of the chemises they are using the most amusing little designs of faintly colored organdies cut in slender little patterns and appliqued to the white background.

Showing the Winsome Frock of Silver and Mauve Metal Cloth With Clever Girdle of Silver Tissue; It Is Charming for Formal Wear.

THE CROSS PATCH IN COLORS

Knitted Fabric Is Now Being Shown in Twenty Winsome Two-Toned Effects.

Cross patch, the knitted fabric that was introduced in solid colors only last year, is shown this year in twenty different two-toned effects. Its possibilities as a cape or skirt medium for outdoor wear are more tempting than ever.

In the same breath, velvet deserves mention. Chiffon velvet, with its soft, luscious lines so beautifully adaptable to the draped silhouette now so completely in favor, appears everywhere. Seven out of ten of the costumes worn in one of the most fashionably costumed plays of the season were developed in chiffon velvet.

Luster Lace.

French luster lace is being exploited. It is made of pure silk, somewhat heavier in weight than Spanish lace. The designs are very solid and cubistic and a high lacquered effect is achieved.

MANY BEADS ARE BEING IMPORTED

Gowns From Paris Are Bedecked With Quantities of This Sort of Decoration.

The luminous quality of beads as a trimming is the feature that keeps them inseparable from smart evening clothes. Perhaps it is for this reason that one finds a growing number of beaded gowns being brought from Paris so that the height of the season will find fashion in its most resplendent mood. Some New York stores are showing groups of imported gowns that are luxuriously beaded.

One of these numbers developed along lines simulating a Spanish shawl has large tapestry designs worked in beads of gorgeous coloring. The tapestry motif in this case, being placed in cut-out effect on a ground of solid black, is very striking. Another import, heavily beaded, has the entire bodice handled in a scalloped shell pattern of satin beads with the slim, narrow skirt worked in black jet alone. The skirt of this model is split up the side, and a wide satin flare shows through this opening in sash effect.

A gown of simpler appeal is offered in royal blue chiffon with a scattered studding of rhinestones on the bodice and a good-looking running motif combining the rhinestones with crystal on the skirt. A soft girdle of silver cloth finishes its rich appearance.

Imported frocks of more youthful appearance are shown in crepe Roma. One of these in a rich rose tone uses a deep bertha of self-material over a sleeveless bodice. The fitted line of the basque is slightly shirred, and the skirt in graceful fullness is decorated with a grape motif that combines crystal beads with silver soutache.

Knitted Suits.

Knitted suits, both in wool and silk, are seen as the season advances. Tan and gray seem to be the most popular colors, and frequently shoes, hat and gloves carry out the same tone.

THE KITCHEN CABINET

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If the classes in this country could get acquainted, it would not solve all problems, but it would save us a deal of trouble.—Clyde Davis.

SEASONABLE GOOD THINGS

This is the time of year when plum pudding, suet pudding and the rich steamed puddings of fruit and nuts are enjoyed. Here is a simple suet pudding, not too sweet, and when served with a sweet egg sauce is very tasty:

Suet Pudding.—Take one cupful each of sour milk, chopped suet, molasses and fruit. Three and one-half cupfuls of flour, two well-beaten eggs, one teaspoonful of soda and spices to suit the taste. Cut the dried fruit, such as raisins, into bits with the shears, add the soda to the sour milk, add the spices to the flour and give the whole a good beating before putting into pound coffee cans well-greased and covered. Steam two hours, remove from the cans and dry off in a hot oven for five to ten minutes. Wrap in waxed paper and keep in a cool place. This recipe will make two nice puddings. Serve with:

Egg Sauce.—Beat one egg until light and foamy, add one cupful of sugar and beat until well-mixed, then add one-half cupful of boiling hot milk, stir well and serve at once.

Indian Suet Pudding.—Take two quarts of milk, three-quarters of a cupful of corn meal, two well-beaten eggs, one cupful of brown sugar and one cupful of chopped suet, one-half cupful each of chopped dried fruit, (raisins, dates, figs or prunes or a combination) and flour, with spices to taste, a bit of salt and, if at hand, a cupful of sour cream. Scald one quart of the milk with the corn meal, add the rest of the milk, eggs, sugar and suet with the half cupful of fruit and sour cream, sifting the flour over the top. Stir a half-dozen times during the first hour of baking, then the meal will be well-mixed through the pudding.

Steamed Delight.—Take two cupfuls of bread crumbs, one cupful of molasses, one cupful of milk, one-half teaspoonful each of cloves and cinnamon, one teaspoonful of mace, one cupful each of raisins and currants. Steam three hours. Serve with a sauce prepared from canned fruit juice or any preferred sauce.

It is not necessary to go to the forest for adventures; they lie in wait for us at our very doors.—Samuel Scoville, Jr.

THE EMERGENCY SHELF SUPPLY

The housewife who has a shelf well supplied with canned foods, package and preserved, feels no distress in facing an unexpected guest.

With a can of salmon, a bit of cabbage, celery and a sour pickle or two, well-chopped, one may have a nourishing salad in a few moments. It is understood, of course, that all forehanded housewives have a jar of salad dressing or the "makings" of French dressing always on hand.

If no cabbage or celery is at hand, to the salmon add a half cupful or more of coconut from which the sugar has been washed, using a little milk, then with a good boiled dressing a dish which is very substantial results.

With the cupful or two of griddle-cake batter which has been prepared with milk and eggs, a cupful of canned corn is stirred and you have fritters to serve with bacon, chicken or any meat dish you desire. Cook the fritters on a hot griddle in a little fat, or fry them in deep fat.

A few marshmallows cut up may be served in place of cream on the cup of hot chocolate or to garnish a pudding, meringue, or a custard. They are nice in fruit salads of all kinds.

The canned marshmallow whip may be used with nuts to frost cakes, cookies and desserts.

It is unnecessary to mention the wide range of soups one may serve from the canned varieties. An excellent combination is pea soup and canned milk—a can of each, heated hot and served with croutons or hot crackers.

She is indeed wise who can combine and season her foods so that the ready-to-eat food may have the air of that carefully prepared by an artist.

A cooked salad dressing will become, with the addition of some chopped parsley, pickles or capers, a delightful fish sauce.

With a little left-over chicken and a bunch of celery with mayonnaise a delicious salad is ready, and who could refuse a chicken salad?

A few suggestive menus which may be prepared from the emergency shelf may be timely. For luncheon, canned chicken on toast, string bean salad, crackers, canned fruit, cookies and tea or cocoa with cheese if desired.

Cream of celery soup, salted wafers, potted ham or meat sandwiches, stuffed dates, fresh fruit, cake and coffee.

Baked beans, pickles, brown bread, fruit salad, strawberry jam, cookies, tea.

Nellie Maxwell

Not to Be Disturbed.

A Princeton professor has discovered the existence in the heavens of a new sun 50,000 times brighter than our own. We understand that out of consideration for the electric lighting companies it is to be allowed to remain at its present distance for the time being.

When Boldness Is Best Course.

He who, when called upon to speak a disagreeable truth, tells it boldly and has done, is both bolder and milder than he who nibbles in a low voice and never ceases nibbling.—Lavater.

Second Round.

"Waiter, I came in yesterday for a steak."

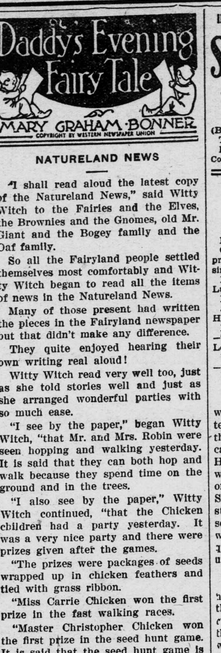
"Yes, sir. Will you have the same today?"

"Why, I might as well if no one else is using it."—Jack Canuck.

Not the Only One.

Here's a New York woman who tells the court she can't live on $40,000 a year.

"Well, there's a lot of us who'd like to who can't, either."—Boston Evening Transcript.



NATURELAND NEWS

"I shall read aloud the latest copy of the Natureland News," said Witty Witch to the Fairies and the Elves, the Brownies and the Gnomes, old Mr. Giant and the Bogey family and the Oaf family.

So all the Fairyland people settled themselves most comfortably and Witty Witch began to read all the items of news in the Natureland News.

Many of those present had written the pieces in the Fairyland newspaper but that didn't make any difference.

They quite enjoyed hearing their own writing real aloud!

Witty Witch read very well too, just as she told stories well and just as she arranged wonderful parties with so much ease.

"I see by the paper," began Witty Witch, "that Mr. and Mrs. Robin were seen hopping and walking yesterday. It is said that they can both hop and walk because they spend time on the ground and in the trees.

"I also see by the paper," Witty Witch continued, "that the Chicken children had a party yesterday. It was a very nice party and there were prizes given after the games.

"The prizes were packages of seeds wrapped up in chicken feathers and tied with grass ribbon.

"Miss Carrie Chicken won the first prize in the fast walking races.

"Master Christopher Chicken won the first prize in the seed hunt game. It is said that the seed hunt game is the same as the peanut hunt game which is played by children.

"The Chickens, so the Natureland News wishes to inform its readers, do not hop like the robins but they walk.

"It is supposed to be the custom of birds who sing to hop and of the others to walk. This, the Natureland News learns upon the best authority in the country.

"What the reason for it may be the Natureland News feels is because the song birds are in the trees perhaps more than the others. Then, too, the song birds have the kind of feet which make these ways the best for them.

"Mr. Sparrow, the News learns, has, for example, large hind toes but he wishes to inform all those who are interested in his toes and also all those who are not interested in his toes that his three front toes are very close together and what might be called chummy toes.

"There were Prizes."

"I also see by the paper," said Witty Witch, as she continued to read the different stories and of news which she saw, "that there has been a gorgeous display of orchids at a botanical garden which is a place where there are many flowers and plants.

"There were fifty different kinds of orchids shown. Some are from the Old World and some from the New World.

"Some being displayed are relatives of our Woodland friends, the Ladyslippers.

"The orchids say that rain water to them is the same as food.

"Some of the orchids especially wanted it said in the Natureland News that they did not take root in trees and live off the trees, but that they took root in dirt and old leaves on the surface of the tree and so did not do the tree any harm.

"They wish the News to stop any stories that are other than the above given one which is correct.

"Well," ended Witty Witch, "I enjoyed reading the paper aloud and telling you all that was in it. It's certainly nice to hear what is going on these days."

"It certainly is," agreed all the Fairyland people.

How the Dodo Died.

"As dead as the dodo" is a common expression, but few know what manner of bird the dodo was or what drove it from the face of the earth. The dodo was a large bird, with a huge beak and useless little wings. Portuguese and Dutch sailors found it on the island of Mauritius in the Indian ocean during the Sixteenth century. It was so stupid that the Portuguese named it "doudo," meaning simpleton. Pigs introduced into the island by the Europeans destroyed the dodo's eggs and young, and so it became extinct in the Seventeenth century.

A Good Many.

The girl scouts now number 122,850. The chartered councils number 283 and the troop officers 9,245.

Foot Like a Pincushion.

Little Elsie's foot had fallen asleep.

"Oh, mamma," she exclaimed, "my foot feels just like a live pincushion!"

Girls, Please Note.

Mother—Sometimes there are rude boys in Sunday school who giggle and smile at little girls, and sometimes little girls smile back at them, but I hope my little girl does not behave like that.

Small Daughter—No, indeed, mamma; I always put out my tougue at 'em.—Boston Transcript.

Oh, Fudge.

"What are you after?"

"A tea kettle."

"That's funny."

"What's funny?"

"Deliberately buying something to keep you in hot water."

A High Compliment.

"Old Bucks paid me a very high compliment the other day," said the newspaper man.

"What was it?" asked the rounder.

"He asked me if I could lend him $500," replied the newspaper man.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR JANUARY 21

THE PRODIGAL SON

LESSON TEXT—Luke 15:11-24.

GOLDEN TEXT—There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.—Luke 15:10.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Psalm 32; Luke 7:36-50; Rom. 5:1-11; Gal. 6:1-6.

PRIMARY TOPIC—A Father's Love.

JUNIOR TOPIC—A Picture of the Heavenly Father's Love.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Reach and Power of Our Father's Love.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How to Treat Sinners.

I. The Son's Insubordination (v. 12).

There is every indication that this was a happy home. But a devil entered it and stirred up discontent in the heart of the younger son. He became tired of the restraints of home. His desire for freedom moved him to wilfully choose to leave home—throw off the constraints of his father's rule. Sin is the desire to be free from the restraints of rightful authority and for selfish indulgence. It starts out with wrong thoughts about God. At the request of the son, the father "divided unto them his living."

II. The Son's Departure (v. 13).

Having made the final decision he got his goods in portable shape. Having thrown off the restraints of his father's rule he eagerly withdrew from his father's presence. This is always the way sin works. He "gathered all together." When the sinner casts off his allegiance to God he takes all that he has with him. He not only wastes his money, but his character is sacrificed.

III. The Son's Degeneration (vv. 13-14).

He had a good time while his money lasted, but the end came quickly. The millions are that his course was soon run. From plenty in his father's house to destitution in the far country was a short journey. The sinner is soon made to realize the famine when his very powers which ministered to his pleasure are burned out.

IV. The Son's Degradation (vv. 15, 16).

He had no friends to help him when his money was all gone, so he was driven to hire out to a citizen to feed swine. It was quite a change from a sonship in his father's house to feeding hogs in the far country. So it is; those who will not serve God are made slaves to the devil to do his bidding (Rom. 6:16). In his shame and disgrace the prodigal could not even get the necessary food. The coarse food of the hogs was denied him.

V. The Son's Restoration (vv. 17-24).

1. He Came to Himself (v. 17). When he reflected a bit he was made conscious that, though he had wronged his father and ruined himself, yet he was a son of his father. In the days of his sinning he was beside himself. The world calls the sinner who leaves off his evil ways crazy, but in reality he just becomes sane. If we could but get sinners to think seriously of their condition it would be more easy to get them to turn from their sins.

2. His Resolution (v. 18). His reflection ripened into resolution. The picture of his home, where even the hired servants had a superabundance, moved him to make a decision to leave the far country and go home.

3. His Confession (vv. 18, 19). He acknowledged that his sin was against heaven and his father—that he had forfeited his right to be called a son, and he begged to be given a place as a hired servant. The sinner not only should make a resolution; he should confess his sin; for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

4. His Action (v. 20). Action was needed. Resolution will not avail unless accompanied with action.

5. His Reception by His Father (vv. 20-24). The father had not forgotten his son. During the years he longed for his return. He must often have looked for him, for he saw him when he was a great way off. So anxious was he for him that he ran to meet him and fell upon his neck and kissed him. So glad was the father that he even did not hear his confession through, but ordered the tokens of honor to be placed upon him, receiving him back into a son's position. The parable makes bare God's heart. Every teacher should strive to present this lesson so as to show God's forgiving mercy—His willingness to receive back His wayward child.

True Love Gives.

True love does not demand, it gives; it does not absorb from another, it pours out of its own rich stores to others. It does not feed on the afflictions of self, but grows strong and radiant on negation of itself. There is so much that goes under the name of love that is poor and paltry and mean that wants to get rather than give; that calls itself love, and sacrifices the object of it to feed the flame of its own egotism. Not such is the love of God, nor the love of Jesus Christ; nor such either can be our love if it is of the Divine nature.—Selected.

To Become a Christian.

We have been very strong on the fact that a man must accept the dogma of the Divinity of Jesus in order to become a Christian, but we have not been half strong enough on the fact that he must first accept Him as Perfect Man, must adopt as his ideal, His Character, with its hatred of lust, impurity even in thought, His detestation of revenge, hatred, pride and selfishness.—Rev. G. A. Studdert Kennedy.

Two Classes.

The race is divided into two classes, those who go ahead and do something, and those who sit still and inquire, "Why wasn't it done the other way?"—O. W. Holmes.

Taken From Evil to Come.

The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart; and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.—Isaiah 57: 1.

Assurance.

In our trials and conflicts we are assured of the tender sympathy of heaven.—Anon.

How Easy to Love.

How difficult it is to know—how easy to love Thee!—Unknown.

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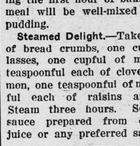

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VOL. XXXVI. NO. 2.

FRENCH SEIZE PITS IN RUHR

Court-Martial Will Try Ruhr Magnates

TIMBER PENALTY ORDERED

French, Belgian And Italian Governments Decree Immediate Working Of State Forests On Left Bank Of Rhine.

Essen.—The French Economic Mission has decided to content itself for the time being with the requisitioning of coal already mined and brought to the surface, diverting to France the cars already loaded and destined for the interior of Germany, and postponing for the present the idea of requisitioning the mines themselves.

This decision was reached at a meeting of the Economic Mission, at which General Simon presided and which lasted many hours. The meeting was called after advices had been received from Paris that the word "confiscation" mentioned in the French papers was creating a bad impression abroad, especially in the United States and England.

The realization that the French technical services in Ruhr were totally inadequate to direct a task of such magnitude also was responsible in a measure for alteration of the French plans.

That the French policy in the Ruhr is veering towards milder methods is also shown by the announcement by French General Headquarters at midnight that "the defaulting magnates" would not be arrested, but would be simply summoned and tried before court-martials, leaving these courts to deal with them as they deemed fit.

"We will not give them an opportunity to pose as martyrs," was the comment made at headquarters.

Application of the Tirard plan for collecting customs, which was presented at the Paris conference by M. Poincare, will also be enforced between now and January 31.

It developed during the evening that friction existed between the French Economic Civilian Mission and the occupying military authorities, which was responsible for orders and counter orders, the vacillating policy, involving first the stern and then the conciliatory measures, obtaining in the past few days.

The Economic Mission realizes that preparations are totally inadequate for the French to take complete charge of the Ruhr mines without the assistance of German technical organizations, and is desirous of gaining time, without the wish to resort to the requisitioning of the mines until there is absolutely no other way out.

The French Economic Mission places little credence in the reports from London that Hugo Stinnes has obtained large credits in England for the export of coal into Germany, and expect that when coal shipments from the Ruhr fail, the Reich will come to terms inside of three weeks.

The German magnates held a meeting at Duesseldorf and decided to continue to ignore the French orders, being satisfied that the French would be unable to obtain practical results from the mining operations, and they are marking time awaiting further French action.

GERMANS IN RUHR LOOK TO U. S. IN HOPE OF MEDIATION.

Essen.—Within the industrial and mining circles of the Ruhr hope is quietly cherished that some third power will initiate steps toward intermediation between Germany and France in order to break the deadlock over coal deliveries which has been created by the occupation. This was learned in reliable German quarters.

The possibility of such action by England, it was stated, is regarded out of the question for the time being, owing to Anglo-French political conflictions; hence attention is increasingly directed toward America. Apparently hope spring eternal in the German breast, and, according to certain German authorities, there is reason to believe that a compromise could be effected should the United States become mediator.

The suggestion is advanced that possibly in this manner the French could be induced to consider withdrawal of their troops, while the German Government might retract its prohibition of all deliveries. It was pointed out, however, that the time may not be considered ripe for such mediation by outside powers in a position to act; yet the costs and consequences of the occupation are already so great as to make intervention all the more welcome, it is declared, were it to come quickly.

The German Federal Coal Commissar put the nine owners rather between the frying pan and the fire by supplementing his recent deliveries prohibition with an announcement that any violation of it would be dealt with under German law, which permits the imposing of a year's imprisonment. The owners obviously do not require the commissar's additional instructions since they stoutly adhere to their refusal to deliver coal against his orders.

DR. CRAFTS LEFT $24,000.

Reform Bureau Head Died Comparatively Poor.

Washington.—Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts, head of the International Reform Bureau, who died December 27, was comparatively a poor man.

A petition for the probate of his will, filed in the office of the Register of Wills here, places the value of his estate at $24,000, of which $4,000 is represented by a life insurance policy. Dr. Crafts was survived by a widow, Mrs. Sarah J. Crafts.

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